



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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AQUILEGIA FORMOSA **SITKA COLUMBINE**

Sitka Columbine is a perennial with stems that are 10-60 cm high arising from a simple or branched rootcrown. The basal leaves have long petioles and are twice divided into threes; the ultimate wedge-shaped segments are lobed and 1-5 cm long. The few, alternate stem leaves are smaller and less divided. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely hairy with a thin, waxy coating on the undersides of the leaves. 1 to several stalked, nodding flowers are borne at the top of the stem. Each flower has 5 red, spreading sepals and 5 red to yellow, horn-shaped petals with a 2-5 mm long blade and a 10-15 mm straight spur. There are numerous stamens, and the fruit is an erect, bell-shaped, 5 chambered capsule that is ca. 2 cm long. Flowering in June-July.

Distinguished from reddish flowered forms of *AQUILEGIA FLAVESCENS* by its straight spur and short petal blade 2-5 mm long.